

An Inaugural Dissertation on
the Pulse, submitted to the examina-
tion of

The Trustees and Medical Faculty
of the University of Pennsylvania
for the degree of Doctor of
Medicine by Archibald B. Dod,
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1808 —

or introduced request of
any of the individuals who
would be willing to do so
and would be pleased to
have the opportunity of
Gathering it in the
old style - and so forth.

1881

In an attempt to prove, the fallacy of the
pulse, as a guide, in the treatment of cer-
tain diseases, I should do injustice to
the talents and zeal, of the professor of
the Institutes and practice of Med. in
this University, were I not to acknowl-
edge my belief, that it is the great cen-
tral of the system; that other symp-
toms may often be uncertain, and are
generally useful, only, when taken col-
lectively. The introduction of the an-
tiphlogistic plan of treatment of some
diseases by Sydenham, may be con-
sidered as forming one of the most
important era's in the progress of the
healing art. Too, tho' not sugges-
ted by any great principles univer-

De spalding et aliis ad regalem ac diocesi
venerabilem curiam ad regiam a rebus
spiritualibus et ecclesiasticis, reverendis ac
excellenter et doctore patre vno et unicu[m]
et exaltato et honorato hunc cardinali
ad amorem et nobis nos p[ro]fessionem
reverentie atque de fidei antiquitate et
sanctorum vestrum gaudet et de
eius locis iustitiam et ad ipsa recte h[ab]et
debet et dicitur, plus, quod est de
sanctis et de fidei antiquitate et de
sanctorum vestrum gaudet et
de ipsa recte h[ab]et de
sanctis et de fidei antiquitate et de
sanctorum vestrum gaudet et

sally applicable to disease; it has contributed to lay the foundation of a theory of medicine that elevates the profession to the dignity of a science.

But important as an attention to the state of the pulse is in the treatment of disease, it will not I think be difficult to prove that it sometimes invites to the adoption of mischievous and even fatal practice. It is an evil, often, attending the acquisition, of any good, that, other minor sources, of usefulness and information, which, we have long been in possession of, should sustain a diminution of value. And if the sanguine expectations of mankind often dispose them to overvalue a new discovery in philosophy or the arts, may we not suppose that a

the same time as the other
and it is not always at first at intervals
of 100 yards that visibility is con-
siderable so far off and it would
not be considerate nor natural for such
a road to commence at a point where
visibility is limited. Considering this
it is very important to take care of
so that no confusion of visibility will
exist in the country side, and
you particularly if you have a long
distance to travel, you will, if you
have to cross roads, when passing, look
outwards for visibility of the road you
are about to cross and if visibility is not
good or if visibility is impeded by trees, bushes
or any other object, you will have to stop
and wait until visibility is good again
and if visibility is not possible when
you are approaching an intersection

benevolent disposition would be more
apt to overrate an improvement in a
science which had for its object
the health and happiness of the hu-
man race — Sublata causa tollit
effectus has once its reign as a med-
ical axiom; but when supplanted by
new principles, an indiscriminate ap-
plication of the latter has often de-
prived us of much benefit that might
have been derived from an attention
to the former. I shall therefore en-
deavour to prove first that the ^{the} sta-
tus of the pulse has been too much relied
on, to the exclusion of a regard to
the cause of disease. The success
of Dr White's practice in principal fe-
ver, remarkably exemplifies the ad-

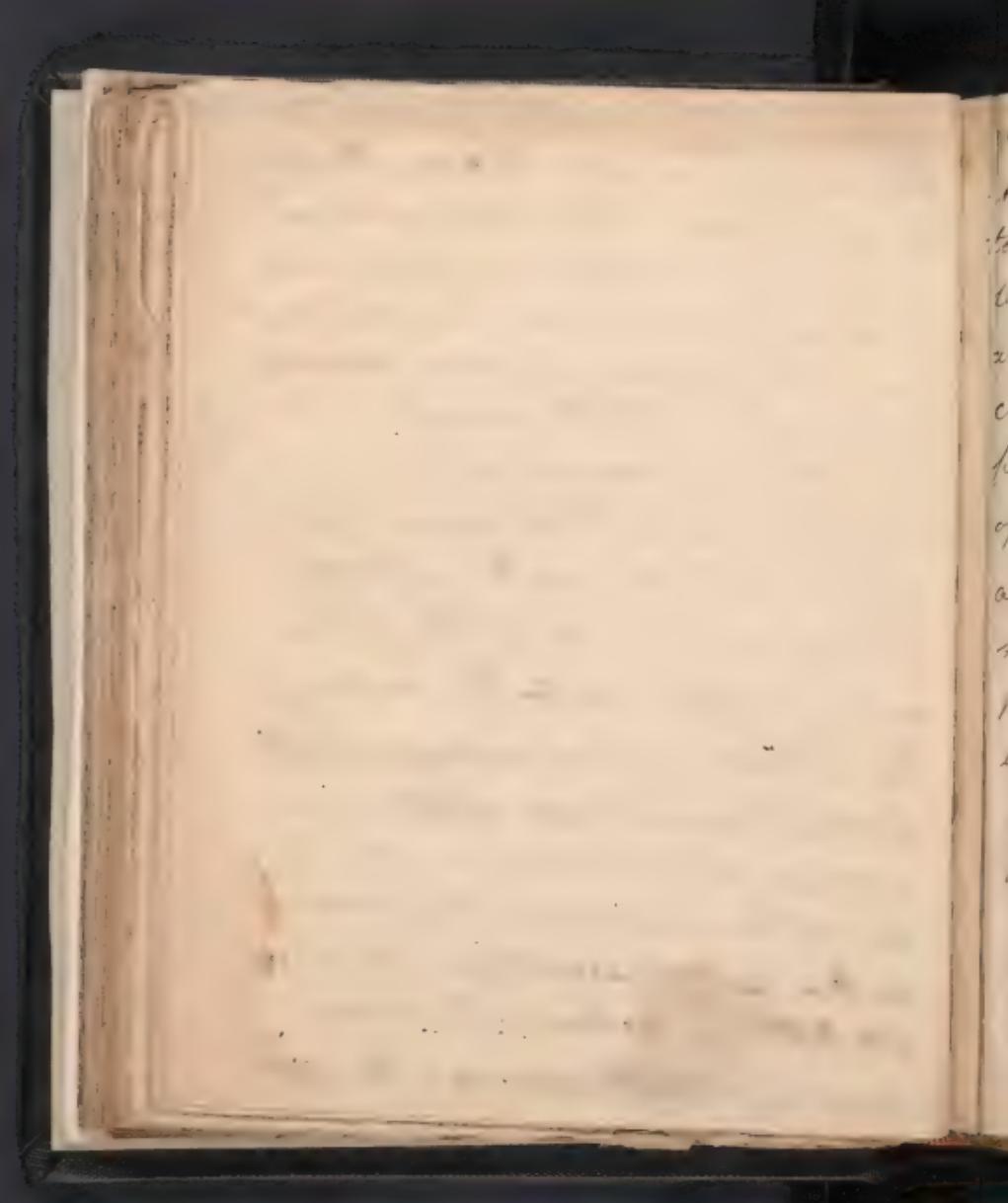
and I would be re-thinking it. The
days to my own better service
and at the guidance of the other officers
selected another station - was now
time to begin the new business of life
without fear and trembling. Since there
are no discriminations or preferences, even
the poor and helpless will be assisted.
I trust to your divine protection
and the good spirits of my friends
to support me in my work. It is
hard and very hard to forget
what I have said and what I do
I longer say mistakes will it, you
know the same so much as it
is dangerous to return without the
the rightness of my position, and

vantages resulting from a removal of
the exciting cause, without much
attention to the state of the pulse.
Great quickness of pulse was a dis-
tinguishing symptom, accompanied
sometimes, especially, in the com-
mencement with some tension.
But believing that the usual ^{ca}
of this disease was a retention of the
lochia and faces become acids from
constipation; and knowing that the
prophylaxis consisted in avoiding
these and a hot regimen ~~together with~~ ^{and}
~~soopervance of temperature~~ he con-
cluded that a continuance of the ac-
tion of these internal irritating causes
must prolong and aggravate the fe-
ver. The removal of these, together with
remedies calculated to excite gently,

Some another place where it
seems to state it is evident
it is very hard to getting there
and were perhaps frightened
out of it as yellow-jackets constantly
visited over their dinner
table and anticipated that
the visitors a few miles off
would have arrived and the insects
to eat around the ~~justification~~
~~gives~~ in at once ~~had~~ helped
~~me~~ ~~me~~ ~~me~~ ~~me~~ ~~me~~ ~~me~~ ~~me~~ ~~me~~
me to remove as a cold wind
as yet there I went to visit
the village had gotten there
but nothing worth to know at last
there were at ~~at~~ ~~at~~ ~~at~~ ~~at~~ ~~at~~

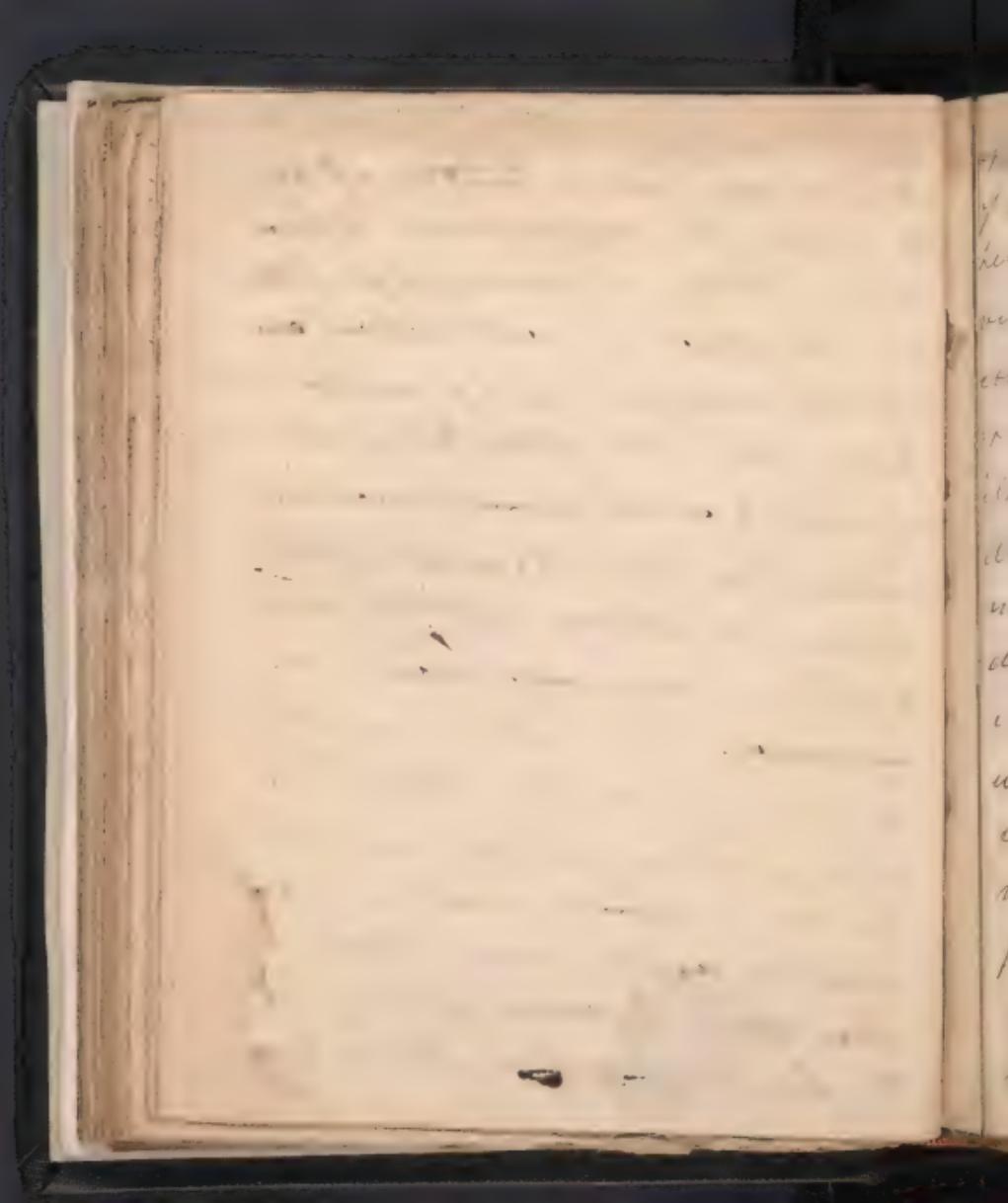
superficial action constitutes the means
that insures a happy termination of
the complaint. Blood letting, when
indicated by excitement in the pulse
he believed would have been destructive
to the patient, already scarcely
possessor of strength enough to su-
bmit the phenomena of life.

Bleeding says Dr. Leavenworth if di-
rected or repeated by the inflam-
matory appearance of the blood
will generally hasten the death of
the patient by diminishing strength
faster than it can abate dis-
ease — So fatal indeed was the
use of the Lanceet in this fever
within the observation of Leve-
nworth that he declare he never
saw a patient survive the op-



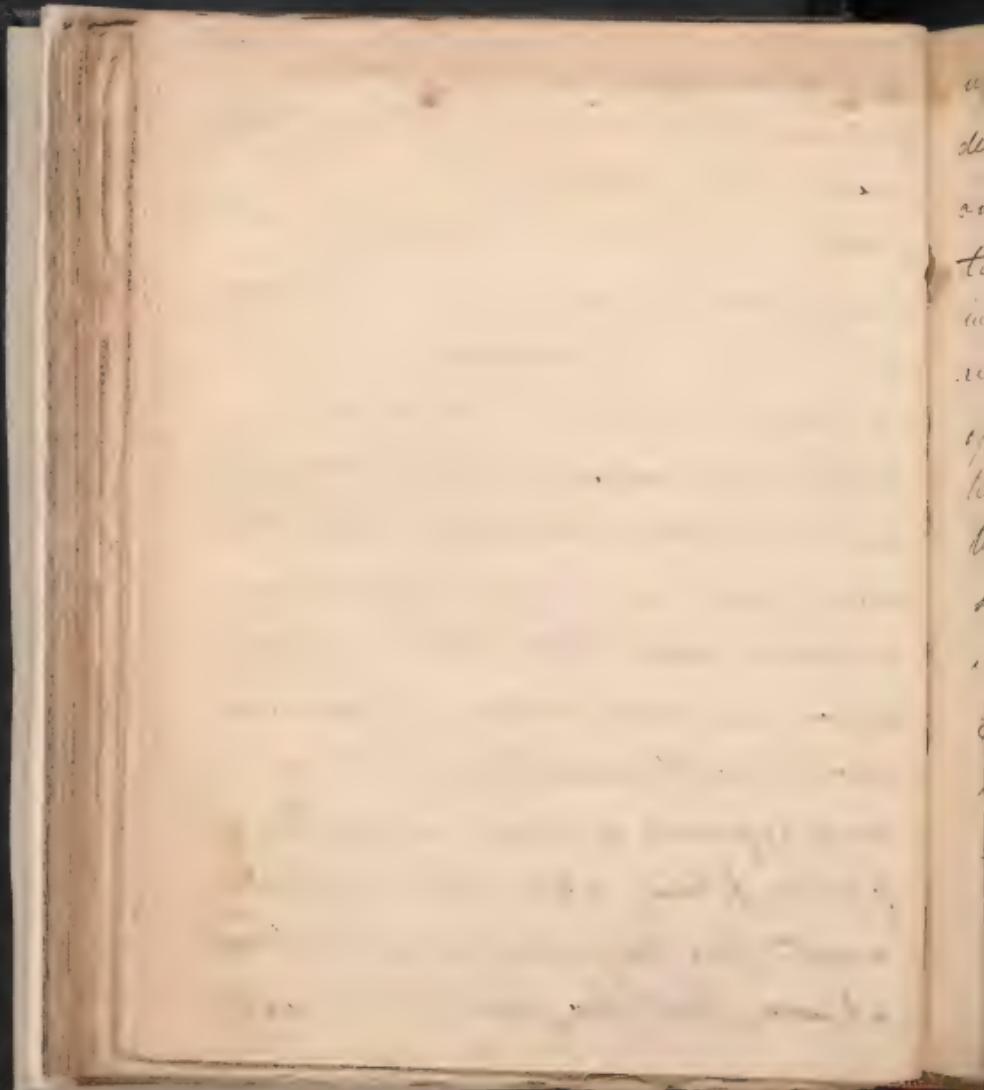
ction. The symptom of pain accompanying fever is thought often to justify the employment of blood letting. It has a primary symptom and the effect of great action evacuating remedies are no doubt proper; but it is often the effect of such a weak degree of morbid action, that above to a debilitated state of the whole system, depletion in any way would be injurious; and it will frequently continue by habit in spite of all other remedies, yet this only to the use of opium, a medicine useful in exciting new action.

Pain in a human referring to the disease of which I have been

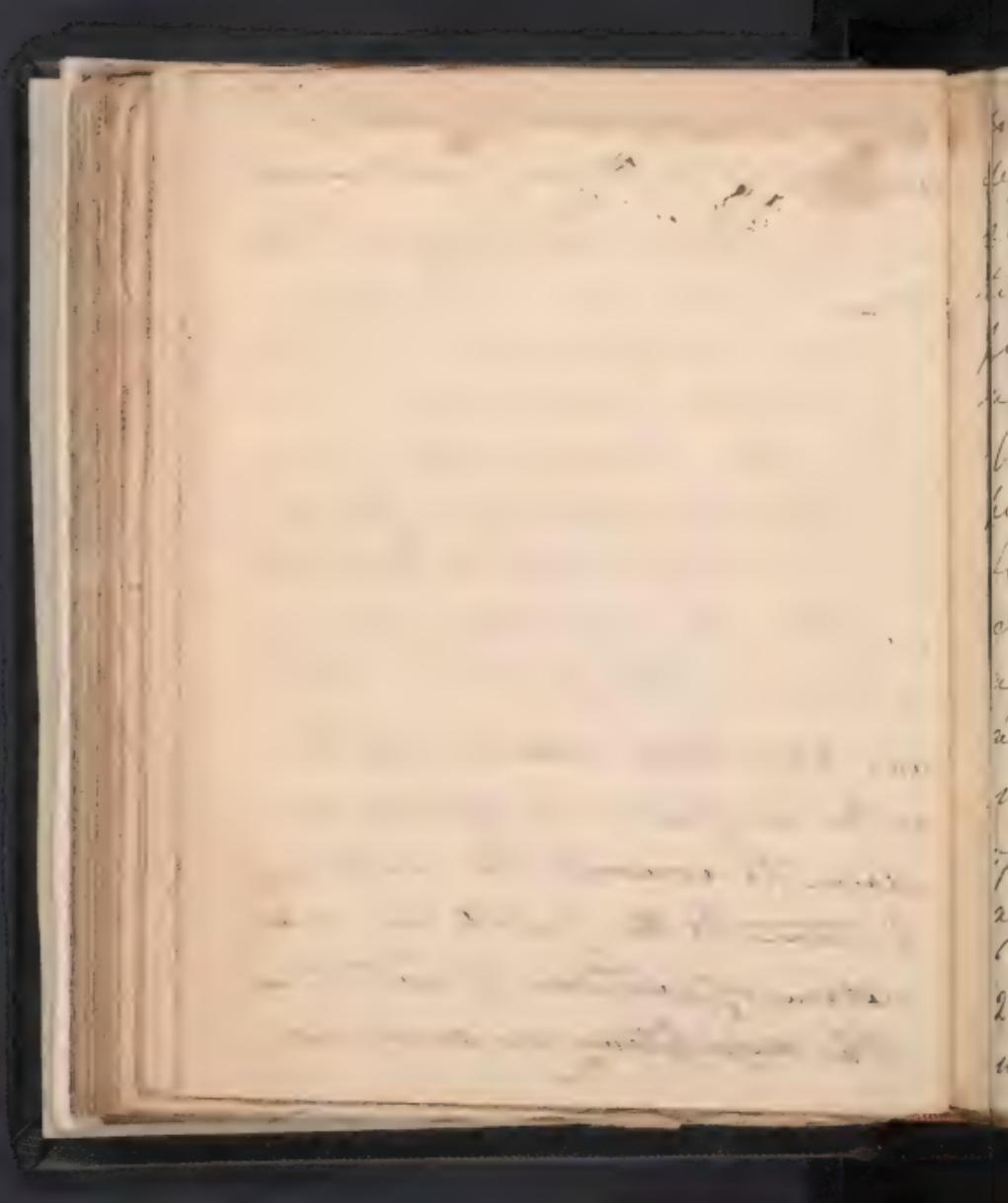


sparking should be elicited by the use
of opium without hesitation at any
period o' the disease when it is
violent; for tho' it be originally a
consequence of the disease, it becomes
after a time a painful cause of
its continuance and increase.

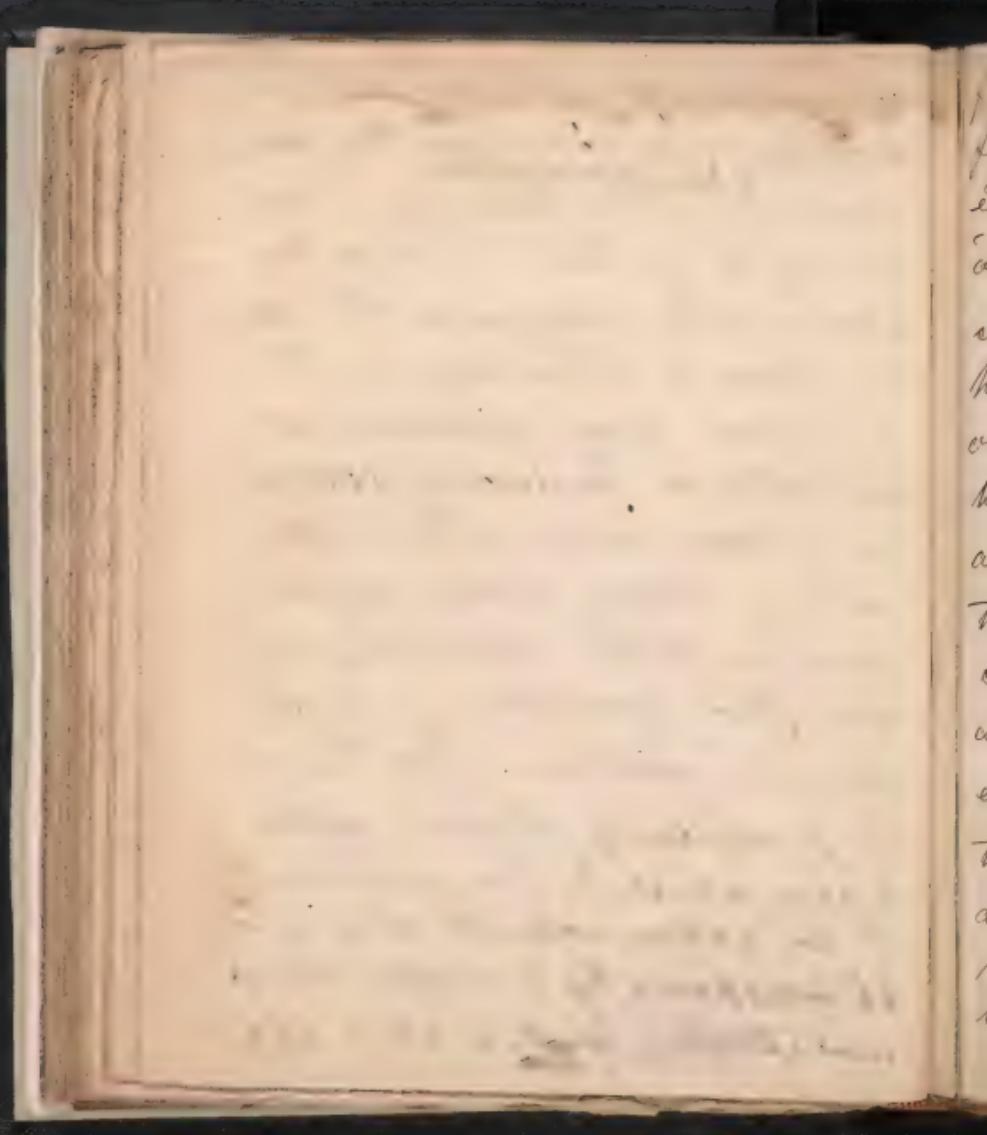
All the improvements in the manage-
ment of lying-in women have re-
duced puerperal fever much less
common now than formerly, on
which account when it does oc-
cur its inflammatory nature
may require a free use of ^{the} de-
pletive plan; still it is suffi-
cient for my purpose to have
shewn, that the Lancet when



uted in obedience to the demands of the pulse, has been not only prejudicial but frequently fatal. The fatal effects of the anxiety in a vicious subject called into play, are such as to taxes some variety of exertion can have escape from notice of but few physicians. But often as it has occurred to their observation, the difficulty of managing it has frequently perplexed them, and sometimes almost led them into the confusion of anxiety and alarm to commit the suffering patient to the Lebbit and uncertain operations of nature. The symptoms are such as



to seem to require a free use of
depicting some &c, and the con-
sequence of the ~~of their~~^{of their} expulsion
of him, that of intro-
ducing the practical business the
power of the physician to rec-
over him — A history by Dr
Longman of an epidemic who
prevailed in London in 1805, af-
fords some idea of the diffi-
culty of healing certain diseases
according to the state of the pulse
and other symptoms of high
morbic action. On the 2d
of January I shall ~~in~~
a case which he has published
to an active robust man aged
26 indisposed by a slight寒寒
was attacked with a chill at a



for chale; during the chille send
freely of cold water and vomit-
ing incipiently. Fever succeeds
one about an hour from its
commencement I saw him; he has a frequent dry cough
oppression and pain of the
breast and head, pulse full
and rather tense, and in fact
the symptoms of pneumonia
complete — I opened a vein
and drew ~~the~~ ^{the} blood, gave an
effervescent mixture to check
the vomiting and, an antimonio-
al febrifuge to promote perspi-
ration — At 9 P.M. he was much
relived and inclined to sleep.
On the 11 at ~~7 P.M.~~ A.M. I saw

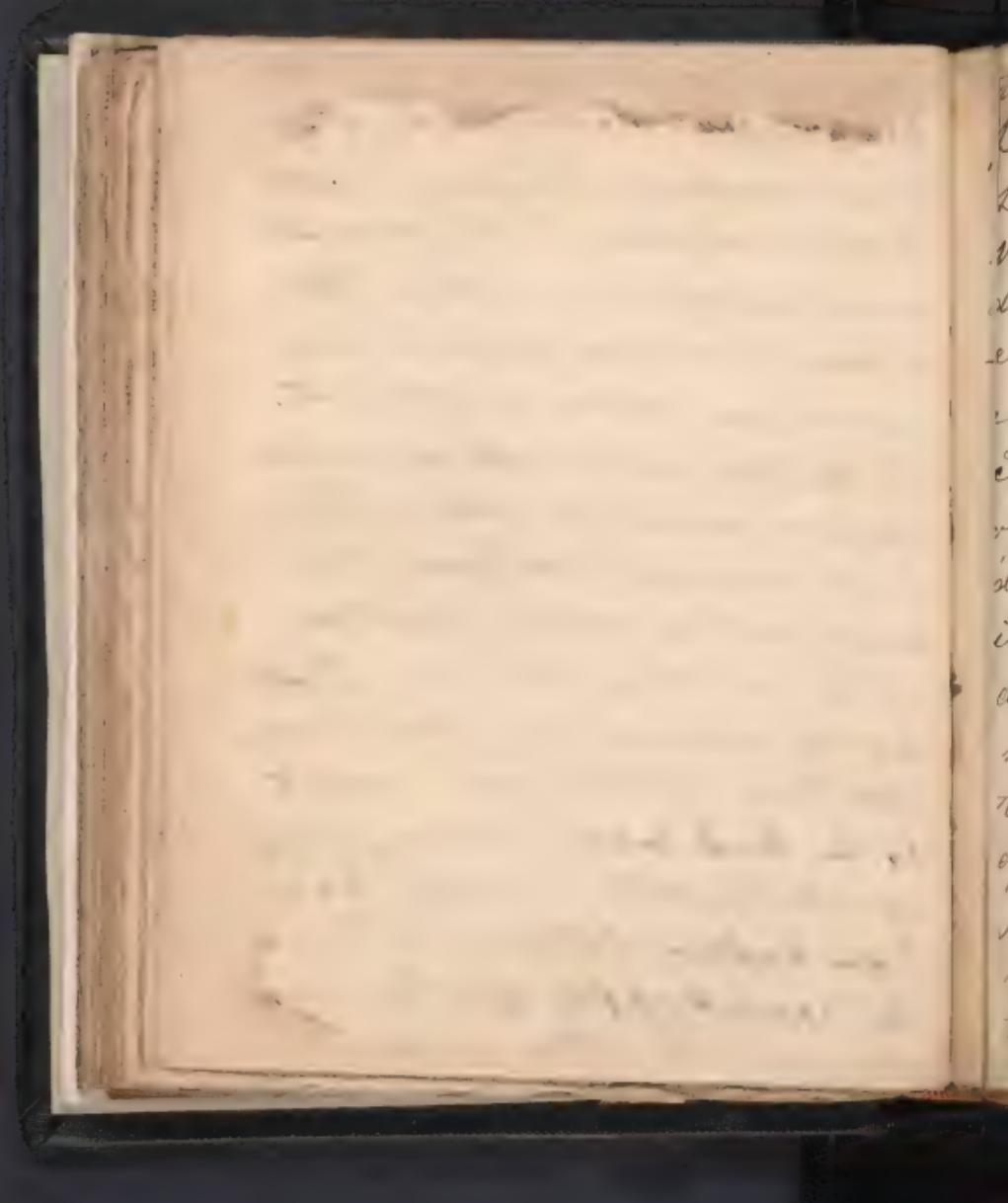
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him again and by my astuteness
ment found him quite exhaust-
ed, his pulse feeble extremities
colorless of a leaden hue; lips
and tongue covered with a
dark scurfous pustules, his
eyes of a glassy appearance
and pupils somewhat dilat-
ed, with typhomania. Blisters
were applied and caiciacs; but
he died comatose at 4 P.M.

There are few perhaps who
will not be disposed to at-
tribute the sudden death of
the patient in this case to the
loss of blood which he sus-
tained. The practice was such
as previous to now and gene-

ral analogy justifies; yet it was unsuccessful under the direction of an eminent physician, who was so alarmed at the consequences of blood-letting, that he was at a loss when to prescribe and when to omit it.

Dr Barton also speaks of an epidemic in which the state of the pulse and symptom of pain were such as to induce an adoption of the antiphlogistic plan. Death was the melancholy issue of every case thus treated, and a resort to the bark was as successful as a different practice had been before that - So true is the remark of Albert that sym-



ions or disease) are often incompatible with the remedies which seem necessary for their removal — The frequency of such disease, Scrofula and some other diseases, succeeding intermitting and remitting fevers, has been adduced as proof that the lancet is often improperly withheld. As disease does not always appear in the same nosological shape ⁱⁿ attention to the changing state of the system may sometimes have been productive of these disagreeable effects. But if it be fable theory to say that the other systems are often too debilitated to bear the loss

of suspect they would suffer from
a dissolution of the ~~excitement~~
of the arteries; that the bark
suspending the action of the in-
victant that continues disease
or transposes the latter to a
part less capable of being fa-
tally acted on; if this reason-
ing be objected to; I have only
to appeal to the opinions and
experience of physicians; and
there are few I suppose who
would not attribute generally
these consequences of fever
to some neglect ^{as to} the quan-
tity or times of administering
the bark — The mischief re-
sulting from too great a reliance

the first time I have seen it
in the country. It is
a very large tree, and
has a very large trunk.
The bark is very rough
and the wood is very hard.
The leaves are very large
and the flowers are very
large and showy.
The fruit is very large
and the seeds are very
large and round.
The tree is very tall
and the branches are very
long and spreading.
The trunk is very thick
and the roots are very
large and spreading.
The bark is very rough
and the wood is very hard.
The leaves are very large
and the flowers are very
large and showy.
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and the roots are very
large and spreading.

on the pulse is taken notice of by
Lind in his treatise on Hot & cli-
mates. The inexperienced disci-
ples of Sydenham and those who
have read authors that treat of
inflammatory diseases only, he
^{in hot climates} advises, to abstain from the use
of the Lancet entirely and to trust
to other remedies — For this rea-
son imperfect essay I have several
apologies to offer; the want of
accuracy and minuteness in writ-
ters in their relation of symp-
toms, especially that of the pulse;
the incompetency of a student to
treat a medical subject; and above
all a requisition of the Univeristy

is edge and is very thin
so soft so soft it is hard
with incisions off where
the soft one grows it goes
to soft soft water has made
it grow very soft and is
soft many ^{stands} ~~stands~~ of leaves
that it has grown to stand its to
soft soft like a hair like a
hair with soft hair like a hair
of hair of hair of hair of hair
like a hair like a hair like a hair
like a hair like a hair like a hair

which is a sufficient excuse for
the failure of an attempt that has
received no aid from a feeling
of confidence in the writer, or if
it have any merit, owes it to the
learning and abilities of those ^{properly} who
have endeavoured to inculcate in
their pupils sound principles of medi-
cine.

22
to last sentence says nothing about
what would be an answer not
speculative but its intelligence
at 5-5 is very hard and hard to
answer so probably the question
is whether it is reasonable and
why not have some reply, and